



California Department of Fish and Game Pronghorn Antelope Management Program 2004 Hunt Information

Wildlife Programs Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

PRONGHORN ANTELOPE – SURPRISE VALLEY JUNIOR HUNT

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR HUNT ZONE

This information has been prepared to assist people hunting antelope in the Surprise Valley Junior Hunt (Zone 6). The information should be useful for archery and rifle tag holders. Surprise Valley Junior Hunt (Zone 6) is located in portions of Lassen and Modoc counties.

REGULATIONS

Regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter, who knows the laws and regulations, will enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/2004/mammalregs04.html.

To hunt pronghorn antelope in this zone, hunters must possess a Surprise Valley Junior Hunt tag. This tag is valid during the general season, and hunters are required to use an appropriate method of take specified in Title 14, Section 353. Season dates vary annually; thus, be sure to check the current regulations for the specific dates.

To receive a tag for this hunt, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit pronghorn antelope tag applications by the first business day after June 1. For information regarding pronghorn antelope tag application procedures and obtaining a pronghorn tag for this area, see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>.

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill, where they killed the animal, attach the tag to the antlers (or ears, if Antlerless), have the tag validated and countersigned, and **return the completed report card portion and pronghorn teeth to the department within one week after the close of the season. All hunters are required to return their report card portion, whether the hunt was successful or not.** Hunters are asked **not** to submit their pronghorn's teeth in any type of plastic wrapping; instead, send it in the envelope provided.

LAND OWNERSHIP/ PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Surprise Valley Junior Hunt (Zone 6) contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Public lands within the zone are administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS); Modoc National Forest, 800 W 12th Street, Alturas, CA 96101, (530-233-5811) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); P. O. Box 460, Cedarville, CA 96104, (530) 279-6101. Hunters must obtain and have in their possession, written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. For information regarding these lands, contact the following:

DFG Offices:

Northern California and North Coast Region Office at, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA. 96001 (Phone: 530-225-2300; Fax: 530-225-2381).

USFS Offices:

Modoc National Forest, 800 W 12th Street, Alturas, CA 96101, (Phone: 530-233-5811)

BLM Offices:

Surprise Field Office, 602 Cressler Street, Cedarville, CA 96104 (Phone: 530-279-6101; Fax: 530-279-2171)

Throughout California, additional pronghorn hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM, the primary species managed on each PLM, and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to following link: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>.

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zones or additional pronghorn hunt boundaries, go to the following link: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/pronghorn/maps/surprisevalleyjr.pdf>

The most comprehensive map of the area is the Modoc National Forest map. BLM surface management maps may also be useful. The BLM surface management maps for Surprise Valley Junior Hunt (Zone 6) are the Alturas and Cedarville maps. You can purchase all of these maps or limit your purchase to only those areas you plan to hunt. United States Geological Service (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially to depict topographic features that are not displayed on BLM or USFS maps. USGS maps are usually available at backpacking and engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly in Menlo Park, CA at (650) 853-8300. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592, (707) 562-8794. BLM maps are also available at all BLM offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Room E2841, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 978-4400.

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

There are extensive tracts of public land with excellent access in the Surprise Valley Junior Hunt (Zone 6). Primary roadways in Zone 6 are State Route 299 (central Zone 6) and State Route 395 (western Zone 6). Many USFS, BLM, and county roads branch off of these primary roadways providing excellent access to public lands.

TRAVEL TIPS

Surprise Valley Junior Hunt (Zone 6) covers a large geographical area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area.

WEATHER

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but summer thunder storms are not uncommon. Thunder storms can make roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Historical information on pronghorn antelope harvest for this area is available in the table(s) at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/pronghorn/surprisevalleyjr.htm>. This statistical information may be useful for the purposes of planning and/or applying for pronghorn tags in this zone. Each table contains the specific year, number of applications received, number of tags issued, number of pronghorn harvested, and the percentage of hunter success for each year.

CAMPING

There are numerous designated campgrounds within Surprise Valley Junior Hunt (Zone 6). The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire

season, special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas. Please DO NOT CAMP at springs or other water sources that are important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining at artificial wildlife water sources (guzzlers) can be a Fish and Game violation. YOU can pack water--birds and animals cannot!

WHERE TO LOOK FOR ANTELOPE

Pronghorn antelope use open areas with little cover. They are usually found in flat to rolling country, and not too far from water. Antelope run to gain distance from perceived threats. Unlike deer, they do not seek close hiding cover. When scouting or hunting for antelope, keep the sun at your back while it's low in the sky (morning or evening). Pronghorn antelope are usually very easy to see at distances of a mile or more under good light conditions.

Because pronghorn antelope are creatures of open habitats, you can hunt them all day. However, you run the risk of exhausting yourself. Try to pace yourself and concentrate hunting mornings and evenings. Stalking can be a long process, so remember to bring gloves, knee and elbow padding to protect you from sharp rocks. Binoculars and spotting scopes can be a great asset for observing antelope at long distances. Popular areas to look for pronghorn antelope are Snake Lake and Dead Cow Flat. Scouting other areas can help you locate an out-of-the-way site that may have less hunter pressure and fit your style of hunting.